

**From:** 2trash  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The settlement that would be in the best interest of the people, is to make the data formats used for Microsoft Word and Excel files be public domain. This would allow other alternatives to Microsoft to be developed that support business and government. Currently various government offices allow documents to be submitted in Word or Excel formats, which provides further justification for making these formats public domain. The settlement would have to limit Microsoft's ability to upgrade formats and eliminate competition.

Public control of these formats would slow the frivolous development of office tools that require expensive retooling every few years. Few businesses, government offices, and schools can afford to upgrade software every two years at more than \$200 a seat. Microsoft can continue to improve its software, but not at the expense of others trying to do the same.

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